

June 26th August 14th & 28th

**Venice - Zadar – Hvar - Dubrovnik - Kotor - Korcula –
Rovinj – Venice**

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours and time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and on the group's pace. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group.

Walking tours in Croatia can only be guided in one language.

The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication without any knowledge of our passenger's individual abilities. Broadly speaking to enjoy activities such as hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating or other activities involving physical exertion, passengers should be fit and active. Passengers must judge for themselves whether they will be capable of participating in and above all enjoying such activities.

All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes, which will be relayed to passengers during the Cruise Director's onboard information sessions

Excursion prices quoted may vary if entrance fees to sites and VAT increase in 2021.



ZADAR, CROATIA

Northern Dalmatia is a region of great natural beauty with wonderful National parks, fine beaches with crystal clear water and lovely little islands. The ancient city of Zadar is undoubtedly one of the jewels in its crown and is a gateway to three outstanding national parks Paklenica, Plitvice Lakes and Krka, wedged between the crystal clear Adriatic Sea and the dusky Velebit mountains. Zadar itself is well worth a visit and boasts a history spanning three thousand years. Over the centuries the town has come under Roman, Venetian, Austrian and French rule giving it a unique cultural heritage and leaving a fascinating architectural kaleidoscope for visitors to enjoy.

Cultural Hotspots & Heritage Highlights

Walking tour including Maraschino liqueur tasting.

Duration 2 hours

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 22

Euros 25

Enjoy a guided tour and introduction to Zadar's 3000 year old history, from the Illyrians Romans, Croats, Venetians and Austrians to the modern Croatian state. Zadar was the capital of Dalmatia from the 7th century until 1918 and is a city of great cultural significance, not only for Croatia, but in the wider European context. The University of Zadar, founded in 1396, is the oldest seat of learning in Croatia and one of the oldest in Europe. Valuable manuscripts, books and works of art abound in the town's libraries and museums, and historical monuments, buildings and churches bear witness to past glories.

The religious architecture from the early Middle ages is the finest to be found anywhere in Croatia and includes jewels such as: St Mary's church and Benedictine monastery and its 11th century bell tower, the Church of St Chrysogonus, the town's patron saint and Saint Anastasia's cathedral, the biggest church building in all Dalmatia, parts of which date back to the 5th century. The rest of the cathedral, built in the Romanesque style, is mainly from the 12th and 13th centuries.

Zadar is a historical and architectural treasure trove. Admire the roman forum built between the 1st and 3rd centuries; a decorative column stands on the west side, hung with chains. It was used in the Middle ages as a "pillar of shame" to punish wrong doers. Near the forum ruins you will see the Church of Saint Donat, symbol of the city, which dates back to the 9th century. It is the most famous example of early medieval Croatian architecture and is unique in Europe.

The Rector's palace, dating from the 13th century is said to be one of the most beautiful buildings in Croatia and, together with the neighbouring Providur's palace, forms the largest historical complex left standing in the city after the devastation of the Second World War.

Zadar was once the largest city fortress in the whole Republic of Venice and the city walls and fortifications ensured that the city never fell prey to marauding Turks. Six gates remain in the city walls, the most impressive being the Land Gate which was the main entrance to the city. This triumphal arch, built by a Venetian architect in 1543, is the finest Renaissance monument in the region and has been awarded UNESCO world heritage status.

Modern highlights include the amazing Zadar Sea Organ, a feat of architecture which harnesses the power of Nature; it consists of simple white stone steps which conceal thirty five tubes that are musically tuned. Sounds are produced by the movement of the sea pushing air into the pipes and differ according to the power and velocity of the waves. The same Croatian architect, Nikola Basic, also created the "Greeting to the Sun" which is a 22m diameter circle paved with multi layered glass covering solar cells. At dusk the energy collected by the cells in the pavement creates a spectacular light show which, combined with the music of the Sea Organ, is literally out of this world. The shorefront was totally destroyed by the end of World War II so the Sea organ and Greeting to the Sun are really much more than a tourist attraction; for the people of Zadar, they symbolise renewal and resurrection.

At the end of the walking tour guests will sample some Maraschino an original cherry liqueur also known as "the King of Liqueurs" because of its popularity with King George IV of England, King Louis XVIII of France and Nicolas 1, Tsar of Russia. It was created at the beginning of the 16th century at the Dominican monastery in Zadar.

Inside visits: The Cathedral of St Anastasia



“The Gold and Silver of Zadar”,

Walking tour

Duration 3 hours

Minimum 10 participants maximum 20

Euros 39

Follow the guide on this walking tour through Zadar’s colourful history and see the town’s architectural treasures and priceless religious relics as well as a choice selection of museums.

The walking tour will take you to the 9th century Church of St Donat, symbol of the city, the most famous example of early medieval architecture in Croatia. You will also see the Roman Catholic cathedral dedicated to St Anastasia which was built on the foundations of a Christian basilica from the 4th century. The current Romanesque style building dates from the 12th and 13th centuries and is the largest cathedral in Dalmatia. Other sites of interest include the remains of the Roman forum commissioned by the Emperor Augustus, the largest on the east coast of the Adriatic Sea, with its temple dedicated to Jupiter, Juno and Minerva. St Simeon’s church also figures on the itinerary; this 17th century Baroque church contains the Sarcophagus of St Simeon, a masterpiece of the goldsmith’s art. The cedar wood coffin, covered with exquisitely executed gold plated reliefs depicting the presentation of Jesus to Simeon in the temple, and scenes from the lives of saints, was commissioned in 1377 by Elizabeth of Bosnia as an act of atonement. It is said that during a Mass she surreptitiously broke off one of the Saint’s mummified fingers and concealed it on her person, before being forced to surrender this grisly trophy.

The tour includes a visit to the Permanent Exhibition of Religious Art, popularly known as “The Gold and Silver of Zadar”. These priceless treasures, jealously guarded by Benedictine nuns, include sculptures, needlework, tapestries, and gold and silver religious objects dating from the 7th to the 18th century. You will also get to admire the fabulous exhibits housed in the Museum of Ancient Glass, one of the most extensive collections of ancient glass in Europe. There are over 5000 different glass objects dating from the 1st century BC to the 5th century AD, many of them from the Roman settlements in the area and the Roman Necropolis. During the visit there will be a unique opportunity to watch a display of manual glass blowing at a workshop inside the museum, a live demonstration producing replicas of antique glassware and glass jewellery. (The workshop is closed on Sundays).

Inside visits: the Church of St Donat, the Permanent Exhibition of Religious Art, “the Gold and Silver of Zadar” (special opening for Star Clippers guests until 13h30), or an archaeological museum, the Museum of Ancient Glass (workshop closed on Sundays), the cathedral of St Anastasia and the church of St Simeon.

The visit to the Permanent Exhibition of Religious Art will be replaced by a visit to the Archaeological Museum when the exhibition is closed.



Krka River National Park

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 90

Duration 5 hours

Euros 69

Departure after a shipboard lunch

Moderately strenuous walking tour

Leave Zadar behind you and travel in air-conditioned comfort through the karst Sibenik hinterland to the famous “Krka” river waterfalls. The 17 waterfalls lie within Croatia’s 7th National park, an area of exceptional natural beauty with a preserved eco system and a rich and varied flora and fauna. The park is home to 866 species of plants and has the second highest density of lavender in Europe. 18 different species of fish swim in the Krka river, 10 of which are endemic; there are 222 species of birds including birds of prey such as ospreys, golden eagles and peregrine falcons and 18 species of bats.

The river itself is pristine due to stringent conservation laws and the whole area is totally unspoilt. This excursion will take you to the most attractive part of the park, the Skradinski Buk waterfalls. Here you will find a large natural pool with high waterfalls at one end and cascades at the other. The most impressive waterfall stands 46 metres high which makes it the tallest gypsum barrier in Europe. Above the falls there is a large plateau offering breath-taking views of the surrounding area. The rock formations, luxuriant vegetation and play of light on the whirlpools make Skradinski Buk one of the most beautiful calcium carbonate waterfalls in Europe.

You can also visit a small ethnological exhibition and a restored watermill, dating from the turn of the 18th century, which is still in working order. There is a path around the waterfalls so visitors can explore the area a bit more by themselves.

The tour includes a lot of walking

Please wear comfortable clothes and suitable non slip shoes

The site may be crowded

Krka National Park combines gravel and flat surfaces with a lot of stairs and uneven terrain.

The drive to the park takes 1h15

You will spend approximately 2h30 in the park, including a 45 minute guided visit followed by some leisure time.

HVAR, CROATIA**Hvar Island Tour**

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 90

Duration 3h30

Euros 60

The island of Hvar is well known for its mild climate and lush subtropical vegetation as well as its cultural and historical monuments.

The coach will take you from Hvar to Starigrad, a small town famous for its large bay which has long been a source of inspiration for artists and poets. The town of Starigrad was the largest settlement on the island and dates back to the 2nd century BC. You will visit the Dominican Monastery, which boasts a well-stocked library and a priceless collection of books and paintings. After a short guided tour you will have some free time to wonder around on your own before continuing the scenic drive to the Village of Vrisnik. Here you will be given a warm welcome at one of the traditional country houses where your host will offer you, local wine. The island wines range from light whites to full-bodied reds, all of them are made locally and produced in small quantities. The wine will be accompanied by local specialities such as smoked ham and home-made cheese.

During the drive back to Hvar there will be a short stop at the site of the fortress which dominates the town, so you can enjoy the magnificent views of Hvar and the Pakleni islands.

This tour includes panoramic drives

You will spend one hour in Starigrad, with a guided tour and some time on your own

The drive from Vrisnik to Hvar takes one hour.



Hvar Jeep Safari

Minimum 4 participants per jeep, maximum 20

Duration 3 hours

Euros 85

The Jeeps are parked just a few minutes away from the tender point.

The route towards the settlement of Milna is lined with vineyards, and from there you will carry on towards the bay of Dubovica on the southern part of the island of Hvar. Here you will turn off the road and follow a track to the highest peak on the island, St Nicola (626m).

From the top you can see the village of St Nedija which is famous for its local wine, "Plavac". The view from the chapel is well worth the short hike, as on a clear day you can see the neighbouring islands of Korcula, Susac, Vis, Brac, Solta, Paklinske and Scedron, as well as the Peljesac peninsula. The area has a tumultuous past and you will hear tales of pirates, local uprising, and sea battles between two Roman fleets near Scedar at the time of the Roman civil war as well as learning how the chapel itself is linked to the theatre in Hvar. It is also a perfect spot for taking photographs.

The jeep tour continues to Roskarnica; here your guide will tell you all about life in the olden days as you admire the stunning views across the fields.

Next stop is the viewpoint of "Vidikovac" from where you will see the oldest city in Croatia, Stari Grad, (Old City) or Pharos, founded in 385 BC. Your guide will tell you about the first sea battle that ever took place in the Adriatic and talk about Hora (Ager) fields, a Unesco site that dates back to Roman times. The drive continues to Malo Grablje, passing the fifteenth century village Velo Grablje on the way. Lavendar oil has been produced at Velo Grablje since the 16th century. The village of Malo Grablje was founded in 1537 and deserted in the mid 20th century. You will learn all about the culture and history of the village and the island itself.

This jeep tour explores the rich history of the island of Hvar, known as the island of sun and lavender. The fragrance of these aromatic plants will delight your senses as you pass through vineyards, olive groves and abandoned villages, and listen to your guide talking about life in the olden days and the half-forgotten customs of yester year.

The jeeps will be driven by English speaking Croatian drivers.

Guides will provide commentary for the whole group at certain designated stops during the tour. The Jeep drivers are not guides.

The jeeps are closed vehicles.

Sailing tour to the Pakleni islands archipelago

By boat

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 10

Duration 3hrs/3h30

Euros 78

Enjoy sailing in one of the most beautiful parts of the Adriatic; a favourite destination for all those who love the sea and islands. This tour is all about sailing, "poetry in motion", as some people call it. Let the wind and weather be your guide as you set sail from the town of Hvar to the labyrinth of islands that compose the Pakleni archipelago.

There will be a stop for swimming in one of the bays.



Hiking Tour

Transfer by bus and on foot

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 20

Duration approx. 4 h30

Euros 89

(The exact duration of the tour depends on the pace of the group)

Your guide will meet you at the pier and accompany you on to the bus. After a 20 minute transfer by bus (14 km), you will reach the village of Velo Grablje, the starting point of the hiking tour. The path from Velo Grablje to Malo Grablje is part of an old trail which in medieval times used to link Hvar with Stari Grad on the north side of the island. The trail is practically all downhill, starting with approximately 20 steps and continuing as a short trek of approximately 1.5 km. Thereafter the route to Malo Grablje is on a wide gravel path.

It takes about one hour to walk from Velo Grablje to Malo Grablje with various stops on the way. Your guide will provide a running commentary during the hike, including such topics as traditional island life, the history of the villages, the most common medicinal plants and much more.

There will be a break for lunch at a traditional tavern in Malo Grablje set amidst spectacular scenery. The food will be cooked in an old-fashioned wood oven.

After lunch the walking tour continues to Milna, where you will have some time to swim or just relax on the beautiful shingle beach, before the transfer back to the town of Hvar.

Transfer from Milna to Hvar is approximately 20 minutes each way

The walk is 4 km long

The terrain is downhill practically all the way (90%) and rocky

You will need comfortable walking shoes (no sandals), sun screen and a bottle of water

There are many different hiking trails on Hvar island for all levels of ability. Depending on the group and the time of year, the guide may decide to change the hiking route

Beach wear and shoes for swimming (pebble beach) are recommended

Pakleni Archipelago Sea Kayaking Expedition

Duration 4 hours (depending on the group's pace)

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 14

Euros 49

Activity level: Moderately strenuous

Your guide will be waiting to greet you on the pier and together you will walk to the kayak station.

After a safety briefing and instruction on paddling techniques you will be ready to set off on our sea kayak voyage of discovery along the beautiful Hvar coastline, exploring the little islands which form the famous Pakleni Archipelago. The name is sometimes translated as Hell's Islands (pakleni means hellish) but its origin is more likely to be derived from "Paklina" an archaic word meaning tar or pine resin, the substance which was used for coating local boats.

Far from being "hellish", the islands are a little taste of heaven offering unspoiled scenery, thick pine woods providing shade even on the hottest summer day and crystal blue waters.

The kayak expedition will take us past bays and narrow straits to small pebble beaches where you can swim, snorkel and relax.

You will be provided with a sea kayak (2 seats), paddle, life jacket, dry bag, spray skirt, and snorkeling equipment

Please bring: Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, a long sleeved shirt (Lycra if you have it, cotton if you don't), quick drying sports shoes, swimming gear, towel

Depending on the final number of participants, the tour may leave from a different location



DUBROVNIK, CROATIA**Taste and Flavours of Dubrovnik**

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 35

Duration 4 hours

Euros 60

The tour starts with a pleasant drive along the Adriatic road to the town of Mali Ston, the “oyster capital” of Croatia. This little town is often described as Dubrovnik in miniature. It boasts impressive 5km long city walls, among the longest defensive walls in the world. Construction of the walls started in 1317, and was finally completed in the 16th century. You will also see the ancient salt pans that were in use during the Dubrovnik Republic; salt is still produced there to this day. However Ston is mainly famed for its oysters, and there are oyster farms dotted all around. Upon your arrival in Mali Ston, you will board a local boat which will take you to the oyster and mussel beds. Your guide will tell you about oyster and mussel production in the area and you will get to taste some of the freshest sea food you have ever eaten, including some Mussel Bouzara, a local dish consisting of mussels cooked in wine, olive oil and garlic.

After the visit you will return to your motor coach in Mali Ston and drive back to Dubrovnik.

There will be a short guided tour of Dubrovnik Old Town, and then you will be free to do some exploring on your own.

Dubrovnik Sea Kayaking

Minimum 6 participants, maximum 24

Duration 3h30

Euros 45

The Dubrovnik Kayak tour is an unusual and original way to take in all the city highlights.

You will start the tour by rowing between the forts of Bokar and Lovrijenac. Bokar fort is one of the oldest of its kind, and was built to protect Pile Gate and City Bridge. It was also used as a prison. Lovrijenac guards the west entrance and, unlike the other city forts which form part of the city wall fortifications, it stands alone perched high on a rock, earning it the name of “the Gibraltar of Dubrovnik”. These days it is used as a venue for Dubrovnik’s summer festival, as well as for staging Shakespeare plays, so its thick walls resound to the words of the Bard rather than the thud of canon balls.

Next on the agenda is Lokrum island. Legend has it that Richard the Lionheart was cast ashore here after being shipwrecked in 1192, luckily you will be spared a similar fate. After steering a course around the island you will reach Betina cave, a hidden gem accessible only by sea. Here we will stop for a snack and you will have some leisure time to go swimming in the crystal clear Adriatic before rowing back to the departure point and returning to port.

2 participants per kayak

We recommend you bring swimsuits, towels, sun hat and sun screen

There is a 15 minute walk to the kayak base

Legends & Curiosities

Off the usual tourist radar

Duration 1h30

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 18

Euros 25

Discover the everyday life of the folk who live within the walls of Dubrovnik’s Old Town. A stroll through a maze of narrow streets and little squares will conjure up the shades of the past. Visit the oldest parts of the town off the tourist radar; discover hidden treasures around every street corner, local churches and places not mentioned in any guide books. During your guided tour you will be regaled by stories and legends of Dubrovnik’s old town and the history of the Republic of Ragusa.



The Great Dubrovnik Treasure hunt: Five hundred years of Fine Art

On foot

Duration 3 hours

Minimum 10 participants, Maximum 18

Euros 40

Take a leisurely guided stroll through this medieval town and learn all about the history of the Dubrovnic Republic and its rich artistic and architectural heritage. The tour includes visits to a choice selection of museums.

The Rector's palace, now the town's cultural history museum, is one of Dubrovnik's priceless treasures; an outstanding secular monument which combines gothic and renaissance architecture. The rector was elected for a period of one month, and during that time not only was he forbidden to bring his family to live with him, he could not leave the palace himself without asking the permission of the senate. Here you will see rooms restored to their former glory and furnished in period style, portraits, coats of arms and coins.

The Sponza palace which now houses all Dubrovnik's historical archives is another fine mix of gothic and renaissance styles. Since it was first built in the XVIth century it has served as a customs house, mint, treasury and armoury as well as being home to Dubrovnik's first literary institution founded by a group of poets at the end of the XVIth century. It holds the distinction of being one of the very few buildings in the Old Town to have emerged unscathed from the terrible earthquake of 1667.

The Church of St Blaise was not so lucky; the original construction dating from 1368 was severely damaged in the quake and was replaced in 1715 by the baroque style building you now see. Saint Blaise is the patron saint of Dubrovnik who averted a catastrophe in 971 by forewarning the City Elders that a surprise attack by the Venetians was imminent. The marble altars in the church are particularly impressive and on the main altar there is a gothic statue of St Blaise himself, dating from the fifteenth century. This gold plated silver statue shows St Blaise holding the town of Dubrovnik (as it was before the earthquake) in his hands. The fact that this statue survived the earthquake which destroyed the original church and a subsequent fire is considered to be something of a miracle.

The Roman Baroque Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin is another « new » building, completed in 1713 after the earlier construction was destroyed by the earthquake. It is a veritable treasure trove and houses some 138 gold and silver reliquaries fashioned by local goldsmiths from the 11th to the 17th century. The reliquaries contain relics of St Blaise and a fragment of the Holy Cross. There is also a polyptych (panelled painting) of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary from Titian's studio and a painting attributed to Raphael.

However the best artwork is to be found at the Dominican Monastery Museum. The building dates from the fourteenth century (about the same time as the city walls) and looks more like a fortress than a religious building: all the better to protect the incredible collection of paintings from the fifteenth and sixteenth century. You can admire work by the Dubrovnic school of painters, the Venetian school, Titian's painting of St Blaise, Flemish paintings, relics, jewelry, manuscripts and incunabula.

The tour continues with a visit to the Franciscan Monastery with the church, one of the finest Roman Gothic buildings in Croatia, the pharmacy dates from 1317, the third oldest still functioning pharmacy in the world, the museum library with an exhibition of liturgical artifacts, some paintings of old masters such as "Ecce Homo" by Francesco Raibolini (15th century), a 14th century head relic of St Ursula and the painting of Vlaho Bukovac the founder and chief representative of the Croatian modern art.

The excursion price includes entry to the treasury of the Dubrovnik cathedral, the Dominican Monastery Museum, the Franciscan monastery Museum and Pharmacy.



KOTOR, MONTENEGRO**Perast & Kotor**

By bus and boat

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 120

Duration 4 hours

Euros 50

Upon disembarkation you will drive through the beautiful bay of Kotor to Perast, a small baroque village hidden behind the islet of the Lady of the Rocks. The most outstanding buildings here are from the 17th and 18th centuries. It is a tranquil place which abounds in sacred monuments such as the Church of St Nicholas, built between the 15th and 17th centuries. You will also get to visit the Maritime Museum.

Afterwards there will be some free time so you can explore Perast on your own before we take a boat to the islet Gospa od Skrpjela or Lady of the Rocks, and its church of the same name.

Gospa od Skrpjela is a baroque church situated on one of the two islets in the Bay of Kotor, just opposite Perast. Legend has it that the island was made over the centuries by devout mariners who, after finding an icon of the Madonna and child on a rock in the sea on July 22nd 1452, swore that they would drop a rock at the site after every successful sea voyage. Thus as time went by, the islet gradually emerged from the sea. The custom remains to this day, and on July 22nd every year at sunset the locals take part in the "fascinada" a tradition whereby they take out their boats and throw rocks into the sea. The church contains 68 magnificent paintings by Tripo Kokolja a famous 17th century artist from Perast. His masterpiece is without doubt a 10m long painting depicting the Death of the Virgin. After visiting the island you will take the boat back to Perast and board the coach for the drive from Perast to Kotor, a charming medieval town lying beside a beautiful fjord.

This UNESCO heritage site is the old maritime centre of Montenegro; it abounds in monuments, shops, cafés and restaurants. The 12th century Cathedral of St Tripun and the orthodox church of St Luka will be viewed from the outside.

Lightweight clothes and sturdy shoes are recommended on this tour

The drive to Perast takes 20 minutes

You will visit the maritime museum in Perast and Gospa od Skrpjela church

Transfer by boat to the islet Gospa od Skrpjela

Blue cave speed boat adventure

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 18

Duration 3h30

Euros 80

The Blue Cave is undoubtedly the jewel in the crown of the Lustica peninsula which separates the Bay of Kotor from the Adriatic Sea.

This stunning natural phenomenon is caused by the sun's rays reflecting on the blue water inside the cave and creating a shimmering iridescent blue light.

Enjoy a scenic speed boat ride along the Montenegrin coast, passing villages and picturesque countryside, before you reach the Blue Cave situated just outside the bay.

Enter another world as you penetrate this impressive natural hall with its 9 metre high vault, sculpted from the rock. You will be spellbound by the play of light on crystal clear water so transparent you can gaze right down to the sea bed 13 metres below. If you want to you can go for a swim and make this a truly unforgettable « total immersion » experience.

Afterwards there will be a stop at Zanjice beach. This pebble beach with its mountain views and sheltered swimming was a favourite of Tito, the first President of Yugoslavia.

There will be time for a swim and some rest and relaxation before you board the speed boat for the return trip to Kotor.

This is a high activity level excursion

Participants should bring along comfortable shoes, swimsuits, towel, sunscreen and sun hat

You must be prepared to get wet on this tour ; we recommend you don't take any valuables with you

The speed boat ride to the Blue Cave takes about 45 minutes and you will have approximately one hour's free time at Zanjice beach

Please note that because the entrance to the sea cave is so narrow, the boat will be unable to access the grotto in rough seas. The visit could be cancelled without warning and there will be no reimbursement.



KORCULA, CROATIA

Korcula, cultural and historical centre and Lumbarda village

On foot and by motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 40

Duration 3h30

Euros 60

Korcula is perhaps most famous for its historical sites including the house where, according to popular belief, Marco Polo was born and the medieval fortifications erected to keep the Turkish invaders and pirates at bay. It is a fascinating town to explore. The main street does not run straight down, but zigzags through the town with many side streets branching out at an angle. This is no accident, the zigzagging street blocks the cold winter winds that blow in off the sea, while the layout of the side streets tempers the heat of the midday sun in summertime.

The walking tour will include a visit to St Mark's cathedral, the Bishop's Palace, which houses sketches and drawings by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Tiepolo and many others, and the City museum with exhibits from ancient Greek and Roman times.

After the walking tour you will board a motor coach and head off to the rural village of Lumbarda, where your hosts, the Milina-Bire family, have lived for centuries. In bygone times the family produced wine for its own domestic use, but about fifty years ago they decided to broaden their horizons and use their expertise to establish a small winery. You will get the opportunity to stroll through the vineyards before you reach the family house. You will see how wine is produced nowadays as well as visiting an interesting wine cellar decorated with tools of the trade from the past. The owner of the vineyard will be your host during the visit and will tell you all about wine production in Lumbarda and his own family history. There will be a wine tasting of both red and white wines as well as a snack and some local liqueurs.

Peljesac peninsula wines and vineyards

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 16 participants, maximum 35

Duration 5 hours

Euros 90

Light lunch included.

This is an excursion with universal appeal, although it is particularly recommended for wine lovers and connoisseurs.

You will cross over to the Peljesac Peninsula by motor boat, arriving at the seaside resort of Orebic which is the departure point for the excursion.

The Peljesac peninsula produces some of the best wines in Croatia, including the famous Dingac and Postup red wines which you will sample when you visit the local wine cellars.

You will leave Orebic aboard a modern air-conditioned motor coach, and your first stop will be the legendary Mike Grgich wine cellar, one of the most famous in the region. Mike Grgich was born in Croatia in a wine growing family and studied oenology. However his creativity was stifled by the Communist regime and in 1954 he fled his native shores for the Napa valley in California, a journey which would take him four years to accomplish. By dint of hard work he established an international reputation, and when the Communist regime collapsed he returned to Croatia to establish a winery there, following in the tradition of his father, grand father and great grandfather.

The Grgich winery in Trstenik, is housed in a plain stone building that was once a military base. It is surrounded by a wooded area that overlooks the rocky coast of the Adriatic. During the wine tasting you will taste some of the red and white wines which have made the reputation of the Peljesac Peninsula. After a tour of the Grgich winery, the excursion continues to Potomje village to visit the Matusko family winery where you will get the opportunity to taste some of the wines produced by the grapes which grow on the steep slopes near the village of Trstenik. The last stop on the tour is the village of Prizdrina where the Bartulovic family has its winery. Here you will be served a typical lunch consisting of local specialities and be entertained by a group of local musicians performing Dalmatian folk songs.

Afterwards you will board your coach for the return drive along the Peljesac peninsula back to the seaside resort of Orebic for the motor boat crossing to Korkula.

Wine tasting in 3 different vineyards: Mike Grgic, Matusko and Bartulovic

A typical lunch of local specialities will be served at the Bartulovic winery

This is an active excursion



Hike to Fairies' Spring

Walking Tour

Duration 3.5 hours depending on the group's pace

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 14

Euros 89

Lunch included

Our round tour hike starts and ends in Korcula, a historical fortified town located on the east side of the island. According to popular belief the town was the birthplace of the great explorer Marco Polo, although this is hotly disputed by the Italians. In any case it is a fascinating place to visit with a main street which zigzags through the town and many little side streets branching out at an angle, like a fishbone. This is not merely a medieval idiosyncrasy; the zigzagging street effectively blocks the cold winds which blow in off the sea during the winter months, while the layout of the side streets tempers the heat of the midday sun in summertime, rather like a reverse cycle air-conditioning system.

We will set off on a trail that leads to the village of Zrnovo, one of the oldest settlements on the island. Here agriculture and stonemasonry are the traditional pursuits, and the area is famed for its wine and olive oil. The houses are typically built of stone with porches and paved courtyards and there are numerous small churches, in different architectural styles, scattered throughout the village.

The trail continues to the green wonderland of Kocje, a protected nature reserve. Enter a different world and admire strange dolomite rock formations covered with moss and overhung with green ivy, surrounded by holm oak and ferns. The dark hollows between the rocks add to the air of timeless mystery; it is like a setting from Lord of the Rings, with Bilbo Baggins and Gandalf just around the corner.

The legend concerning the Fairies' spring is actually connected with the tale of Jason and the Argonauts. Jason and his band of fearless adventurers were thrown off course during a terrible storm and ended up somewhere near Kocje. In the distance they saw flickering lights dancing around a strange rock formation and decided to investigate. On closer inspection, the "lights" turned out to be fairies. The thirsty wanderers asked the fairies for some water, whereupon one of them obligingly struck the rock with her wand and a spring of deliciously cool crystal water gushed forth. Keep your eyes peeled; you may stumble on the magic spring as you make your way through the greenery!

On the way back we will pass through Zrnovo again, taking a different route so you can see more of this delightfully peaceful spot. There will be time to stop and enjoy a lunch of home-made traditional fare before returning to Korcula.

We recommend you wear comfortable, closed walking shoes (not sandals), and take a hat, sunscreen and bottled water.

The terrain is mostly flat, but the Kocje part of the trail is a bit more challenging

Activity level: moderate.



ROVINJ, CROATIA

Porec & Wine tasting

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 30

Duration 4 h30

Euros 60

You will drive in air-conditioned comfort to one of Croatia's best loved tourist resorts. Porec is a historical and cultural jewel, dating from Roman times (50 BC). It is a typical example of Roman town planning with two main intersecting streets, Cardo and Decumanus, forming the backbone to the old town.

The tour includes an outside visit to the 6TH century Episcopal complex of the Euphrasian Basilica, an important monument which is a designated Unesco World Heritage site. You will also see Marafar, the oldest part of town, with the remains of two temples dedicated to Neptune and Mars, the House of Two Saints, the Istrian Parliament Building and the Leoni and Zuccato Palaces. There will then be some leisure time so that you can explore this charming little town on your own before the scenic drive to the Istrian hinterland.

After a short drive through the countryside we will arrive at Kruncici village and the Matosevic wine cellar. You will spend some time with the Matosevic family and get the opportunity to sample the fruit of their labours: red, white and dessert wines, as well as Grappa, accompanied by homemade cheese, Istrian Prsut (smoked ham) and Fritule (Croatian fritters), before returning to the port.

Upon arrival in Rovinj, your guide will take you on a short walking tour of this picturesque little town, so that you can get your bearings.

45 minute drive to Porec where you will spend about 1h45

30 minute drive to Kruncici village to taste some local wine

30 minute drive back to Rovinj

RIB Boat Sea Adventure

Duration 4h30

Minimum 8 participants, maximum 8

Euros 146

The Rovinj archipelago and coastline are listed as "Landscapes of Outstanding Value" and once you have seen them you will understand why. The rugged coast with its holm oak and pine forests is enchantingly pretty. The protected area spans from St. John's Cape to Barbariga and encompasses all twenty Rovinj islands and islets and the coastal area up to a distance of 500 m from the coastline.

Red Island is comprised of two artificially connected islands in the Adriatic Sea. This is a popular destination for day trippers as these car-free islets, covered in pine forest and Mediterranean scrub, also boast several stony beaches and rocky coves.

Lim fjord, a sunken canyon valley in karst, is one of the most beautiful natural sites in Istria and one of the most stunning fjords outside Norway, with many secluded spots to delight visitors. The water in the fjord is more brackish and less salty than the open sea due to the many fresh water springs, and temperatures fluctuate. The water contains a lot of plankton and oxygen, so flora and fauna are abundant.

The area is a natural breeding ground for many species of fish, but is best known for its oysters which were praised by the celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain. There will be time for swimming and also for sampling some delicious local shellfish.

The tour includes a cruise around Roving archipelago and Lim fjord, a swimming break and some time at leisure at Red Island Participants must be able to swim

This tour is not suitable for guests prone to motion sickness, guests with back and/or neck problems, guests with limited mobility

Guests are advised to wear a swimsuit under a cover-up with beach or boat shoes, and bring sun protection and a towel from the ship.

Guests must be at least 12 years old to participate on this tour.

